



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

No. 46

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, a year ago normal was turned on its head, national pastimes canceled their seasons, and Broadway went dark. Since then, our whole lives have been tragically upended, and our sense of health and welfare forever threatened.

But You in Your mercy have set before us many who have stood firm in the face of this year of incredible disruption and uncertainty.

God, we offer our deep-felt gratitude for the frontline workers—medical personnel and first responders—as well as those who have borne the responsibility for maintaining the Nation's infrastructure in all its forms—sanitation, communication, transportation.

We lift up to You in thanksgiving all teachers, counselors, caregivers, and parents who have upheld their commitment to the well-being and the future of our country.

I offer this prayer in these Chambers because each of us, and the American Government itself, is beholden to the scores of Capitol Police, staff members, and concession workers who, without fail or fanfare, have executed their duties in humility and faithfulness.

For their sacrificial dedication, the hours of watch-standing and lost family time, God, we owe them a debt of gratitude for helping to bring us through this tumultuous year.

When our words fail us and our appreciation for these noble public servants proves inadequate, we pray that You would speak Your special blessing on them and give them assurance of Your eternal reward.

We offer our prayers to You in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ZELDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ARTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR LIVES

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, these are challenging times for everyone, including for our Nation's young people, who are trying to cope with growing up and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this challenging time, arts education is more important than ever. The arts provide a way to help people connect and cope; and after this crisis, the arts will continue to play an important role in helping to heal.

In recognition of Music in Our Schools Month, I want to highlight the value of music education. My mom was a piano teacher, and I took lessons myself. I know music is an important part

of a well-rounded education. It helps students become critical, creative thinkers across subjects and eventually in their careers.

Yesterday, I spoke with band and choir educators from Oregon, who are working to safely reengage students in in-person music classes. I thank them, and I am grateful that the American Rescue Plan will provide funding to help schools open safely, including those important band and choir classes.

Please join me in supporting music education.

PROUDLY STANDING WITH GUN OWNERS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446 are attempts by the Federal Government to exert more force over law-abiding citizens who want to protect themselves and their families.

Let me remind my Democrat colleagues that the Second Amendment explicitly states that the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Maybe they would remember that if they carried a pocket copy of the Constitution with them like I do every single day. Apparently not.

I am proud to stand with the millions of gun owners in this great country who share an abiding gratitude for the Constitution and the Second Amendment itself.

Make no mistake, these bills are created in bad faith. They are partisan shams that rob us of our freedoms.

HELP IS ON THE WAY

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1329

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise to echo the words of our President: Americans, help is on the way.

The House of Representatives and Senate have passed the rescue bill, and there is money for vaccinations, money to open the schools, and money for small businesses. The opportunity to revise and rebuild our economy is at hand. The President will soon sign this legislation, and help is on the way.

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Mr. ZELDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America.

Jewish War Veterans was founded on March 15, 1896, by 63 Jewish Civil War veterans after several anti-Semitic comments were made claiming there was a lack of Jewish participation during the Civil War.

Since then, the Jewish War Veterans have made it their mission to fight anti-Semitism and advocate for Jewish servicemembers and veterans from all walks of life.

Whether it was supporting Jewish servicemembers fighting Nazi Germany during World War II or establishing the National Museum of American Jewish History, the Jewish War Veterans have never stopped supporting its members, Jewish servicemembers, and our veterans.

As a fellow member of the Jewish War Veterans, thank you for your service to our Nation and our veterans, and congratulations again on 125 incredible years. May there be many more to come.

CRUSHING THE VIRUS AND PROTECTING OUR ECONOMY

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about possibly the most important bill this House has passed in recent years.

Yesterday, we passed the American Rescue Plan, a bill that spends \$1.9 trillion to crush the virus and protect our economy. For the cities in my district, this means \$615 million to Houston, \$42 million for Pasadena, \$2.3 million for Galena Park, \$3.8 million for South Houston, and \$2.2 million for San Jacinto City.

That is money that keeps first responders on the job. That is money that keeps our water running and our trash picked up, and it is also money that keeps families together.

But beyond the numbers, this is the greatest antipoverty bill since Social Security. This bill cuts Hispanic poverty by 39 percent and African-American poverty by 42 percent.

Madam Speaker, we have to continue to build on these efforts. I want to thank all of my colleagues for coming together to fight poverty on a scale that we truly need.

KAIA HENDERSON IS A HUMBLE LEADER

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, the GOAT, the Greatest of All Time, that is how Coach Mike Callan, the winningest women's basketball coach in my hometown of New Hartford, New York, described junior sensation Kaia Henderson.

Not only is Kaia one of the top 50 women's high school basketball recruits in the Nation, she is also a straight-A student, a humble leader, and a viral sensation. Kaia scored her 2,000th point this week, even with a dramatically shortened season due to the COVID virus.

Coach Callan describes Kaia as a special player whose work ethic shows on the court and in the record books, where she holds at least 12 other school records for the Spartans. Kaia herself remains humble, noting she is focused on winning and helping her team get to sectionals next season.

Kaia is inspired by her beloved mom, Kristen, who passed away in 2014, who was devoted to Kaia's success. She also credits her dad, Aurelius, and four big brothers—Troy, Isaiah, and twins Jared and Jordan—who push her to new limits each day.

But there is more. She has now started a viral 10,000-hour challenge during the height of the pandemic to inspire others to perfect a craft. Check out the 10K hours challenge.

Congratulations to Kaia on her incredible success on and off the court.

WE WILL MISS YOU, JOE NOVOTNY

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, this month is the end of an era, as Joe Novotny concludes a 30-year career in the House, the last 10 as our Reading Clerk.

He assumed that role naturally with quiet competence. He was unflappable in the midst of often frantic activity. He is the face of a critically important and complex set of activities that keeps the House legislative process moving forward. Even when it seems like we are not doing much, it takes a lot of people to make it look that way.

He was born for this important role, having literally grown up in the House as a House page to see firsthand the legislative process. His rise through the ranks culminated with his decade as the House Reading Clerk. He has steadily and thoughtfully performed

his duties in an exemplary fashion, being helpful, a perfect representation for the many men and women behind the scenes who hold this place together.

I, along with thousands of C-SPAN junkies will miss you, Joe, and we all wish you well, the very best in the next chapter of your career and life.

ELECTION ISSUES IN WISCONSIN

(Mr. TIFFANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of the many reasons for my objection on Wisconsin's election certification.

A recent story out of Green Bay has highlighted possible improprieties during this past November's election. The story alleges that campaign operatives acted as de facto members of the city clerk's office and disrupted a fair election process.

I call on State officials to investigate this serious matter, as election integrity is the priority for an overwhelming majority of my constituents.

If signed into law, the recently passed radical H.R. 1 will not only codify the types of issues we have seen across Wisconsin, it will disenfranchise many voters across our great State and our country.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS TO RECOMMIT

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to make clear that the motions to recommit that will be offered by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are procedural. They are not motions that are sending back the legislation with instructions. It is a procedural move. I want to be clear and read literally what the motion to recommit says.

Motion to recommit H.R. 8, offered by Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 8, to the Committee on the Judiciary. That is it.

Motion to recommit H.R. 1446, offered by Mr. HUDSON of North Carolina, moves to recommit H.R. 1446 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

These are fake attempts to recommit these bills and to stop them from moving forward. They are sensible pieces of legislation that will save lives.

□ 0915

BIPARTISAN BACKGROUND CHECKS ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8) to require a background check for every firearm sale, will now resume.